

NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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BLM Employee John S. Sherman Wins Award from National Wild Turkey Federation

Carlsbad, NM - John S. Sherman, a senior wildlife biologist, with the Bureau of Land Management from Carlsbad has received the “*National Making Tracks With the BLM Award*” for habitat and riparian improvements in the Black River Special Management Area, south of Carlsbad. The National Wild Turkey Federation will present its award to Sherman in a ceremony in Nashville, TN, on February 17.

Sherman won in the “Partnership Achievement” category in recognition of his accomplishments in strengthening and expanding the partnership between the BLM and the National Wild Turkey Federation. In 1992 a population of 17 Rio Grande Wild Turkey was reintroduced into the area. In 2002, 33 more turkeys were introduced and as a result, the flock has grown to almost 60 birds living in the Black River watershed.

Tony Herrell, Carlsbad field office manager expressed his admiration and support of Sherman stating, “John is a truly dedicated professional who goes above and beyond the call of duty to accomplish the BLM’s mission. I’m very happy that he’s receiving recognition for his outstanding efforts at Black River.”

Sherman, with other BLM resource specialists, created and implemented a plan that included:

- Improving the diversity of native species and decreasing non-native invasive plants
- Improving the recreational experience and education of the general public about wildlife and wild turkeys
- Building partnerships with a diverse group of federal and private entities to economically achieve the goals of the plan
- Installing a wildlife watching platform for the disabled and creating a picnic area for the public
- Establishing erosion control structures in the Black River Special Management Area.

When asked what the award meant to him, Sherman replied, “Of any group that I could receive an award from, I would choose the National Wild Turkey Federation because at 17, while still in high school, I worked with state biologists to capture wild turkeys for telemetry studies.”

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Sherman is a New Mexico native from Alamogordo and Cloudcroft; he graduated from New Mexico State University with a degree in Wildlife and Microbiology and a minor in Range Management. Sherman is married with 6 children ranging in age from 5 to 22.

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